

I'm writing to voice my extreme disappointment about the forthcoming committee vote eliminating the restrictions on media ownership. Of course, I hate the decision the committee has made, thoroughly disdain the grotesque power politics behind it and deeply fear the likely effects of this act. But my disagreement is simply my disagreement; an opinion shared with the vast majority of people who know about this issue, yes, but not a reason, I'd imagine, for your agency to give pause. I'm sending this comment, though, because I feel that, however objectionable this decision is (and however undemocratic the means through which the decision was reached), the way that it is being passed is more objectionable. It's inexcusable -- undemocratic, un-American and thoroughly dishonest -- for this act to be forced into effect without any public debate or explanation. We, the people, deserve far better than that: decisions come and go, and opinions vary, but democracy depends upon informed public debate (which will almost certainly be a casualty of this decision, but never mind). A high-handed attempt to circumvent public debate is irresponsible to the point of repugnance. I can only hope that this administration's disrespect for democracy -- and your agency's manifest disregard for the processes and mechanisms that keep us free, as well as for the important duties with which you've been entrusted -- will end your reign of soft quasi-tyranny sooner rather than later. As an American, how can you do this to other Americans? We not only deserve better, but our nation's future requires it.